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Message Text

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50
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 H-02 L-02 SY-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 /027 W
---------- 079613
O 181300Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9952

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1114

E.O. 11652: N/A
OTAGS: CDES, AR (JOHNSON, JANET)
SUBJ: DEATHS: DISCOVERY OF JANET JOHNSON'S BODY

REF: BA 8598 11/26/73

1. ARGENTINE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE OFFICIALS REPORTED TO EMBASSY FEB 13 THE DISCOVERY OF LOCATION OF SUBJECTS FROZEN BODY AT 6200 METER LEVEL OF MOUNT ACONCAGUA WHERE IT HAS PRESUMABLY LAIN SINCE SHE WAS LOST AND REPORTED LIKELY DEAD OVER TWO YEARS AGO.

2. A DIRECT RELAY CABLE WAS SENT TO JOHNSON'S MOTHER FEB 13 TO REPORT FINDING OF CORPSE.

3. EMBASSY CONTACTS IN MENDOZA AS WELL AS LOCAL PRESS SUGGEST THAT FOUL PLAY IS DEFINATELY NOT BEING RULED OUT BY AUTHORITIES. REASONS GIVEN WERE: A. JANET WAS FOUND WEARING ONLY TWO JACKETS WHICH WAS CONSIDERED TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR SUCH COLD WEATHER; B. SHE WAS FOUND WITH A ROPE BOUND AROUND HER LEGS; C. THE CADAVER HAD TWO WOUNDS IN THE FACE AND ONE IN THE SHOULDER; D. AT THE POINT WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND THERE IS A GRADE OF ONLY TEN DEGREES FROM THE HORIZONTAL. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FALL, MUCH LESS DO SO WITH FATAL RESULTS.

4. POLICE EXPECT TO RECOVER THE BODY WITH HELICOPTER HELP. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHEN THIS WOULD BE BUT BECAUSE OF THE ALTITUDE THE RESCUE WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLICATED. THEREFORE, THE EXPEDI-
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TION WILL PROBABLY TAKE A FEW DAYS TO MOUNT.

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5. ONCE THE CORPSE IS TAKEN TO MENDOZA, POLICE MEDICAL AUTHORITIES WILL DETEMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH AND THE INFORMATION WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE COURT.

6. IT MUST BE PRESUMED THAT A NEW INQUIRY CONCERNING THE INCIDENT WILL BEGIN. THERE IS A GREAT POSSIBILITY, THEREFORE, THAT THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WIL BE ASKED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS PROBABLY PUT TO THEM THROUGH APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

7. IT IS ALSO PRESUMED THAT THE JUDGE UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION THIS CASE FALLS WILL NOT ALLOW EXPORTATION OF JOHNSON'S REMAINS FOR SOME TIME.

8. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE AS THEY OCCUR.
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Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATHS: DISCOVERY OF JANET JOHNSON'S BODY
TAGS: CDES, AR, (JOHNSON, JANET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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